

LAND RIGHTS NEWS

Volume 9, Number 1, MARCH 2007

INSIDE

CAMELS, LAJAMANU PICS, BLUE MUD BAY,
PAPUNYA TULA, ALICE SPRINGS



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CLC Chairman and traditional owner Lindsay Bookie at Molyhil recently with family and Thor Mining representatives to negotiate a new mining agreement

Land Rights NEWS

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COVER PHOTO

Phillip Ashley of Bulman called for no changes to the permits system on Aboriginal land at a recent consultation in central Arnhem land

BLUE MUD BAY

After a 30 year fight, traditional owners of Blue Mud Bay had an important win in the Supreme Court recently

Traditional owner involvement in the Northern Territory's commercial fishing activities is a step closer to reality with the win of the Blue Mud Bay appeal in the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory (NT).

Describing the win as a landmark day for Aboriginal people in the NT, Northern Land Council Chief Executive, Norman Fry, said the decision is recognition of a 30-year struggle for exclusive rights.

"After over 30 years of struggle the exclusive rights of traditional owners have finally been recognised regarding commercial fishing in the intertidal zone and tidal rivers

above the low water mark," Mr Fry said.

The decision applies to over 80 percent of the NT coastline, since Aboriginal land has been granted as freehold to the low water mark of the coastline since the 1970's.

The decision also means that there must now be a comprehensive settlement with the commercial fishing industry regarding fishing in the intertidal zone and tidal rivers of the NT.

The NT Government and fishing industry will seek leave to appeal to the High Court.

The Supreme Court held it had no power to suspend its decision. Accordingly the

NLC is consulting with all stakeholders to implement an agreed outcome in favour of the status quo until the High Court resolves any appeal.

This will involve the issue of interim permits and fishing licences for commercial and recreational fishing in tidal waters.

"If successful in the High Court the NLC will grant a similar amnesty of at least 12 months to allow an ordered transition to a negotiated outcome," Mr Fry said. "Traditional owners aim to become a stakeholder in the fishing industry and ensure that it prospers - not to close it down."

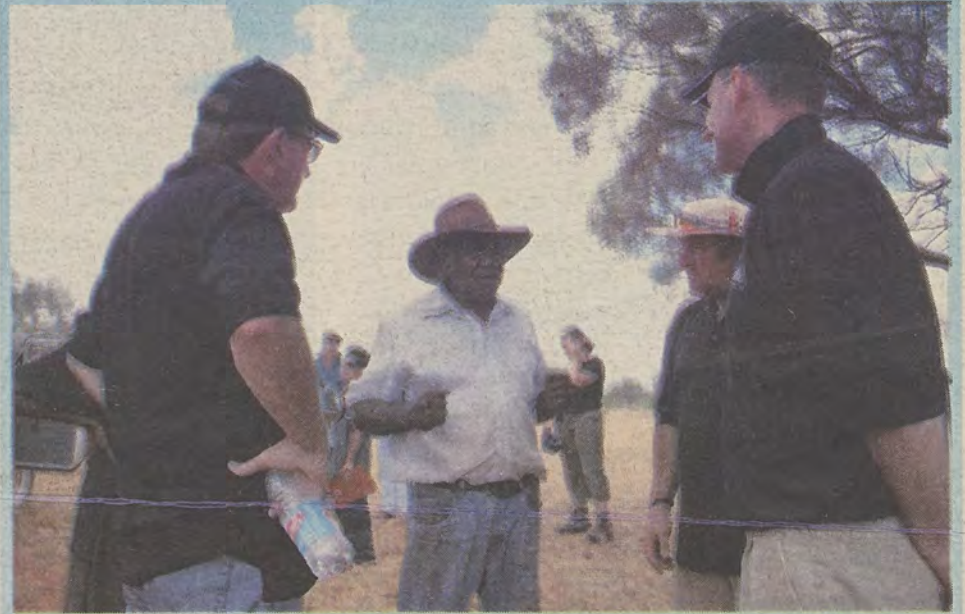
Below: Bobby Bardi Bardi, NLC Chairman John Daly and claimant Gumana Gawirrin



Below: Justice Mansfield's ruling at Blue Mud Bay



Old mine gets a new life



Above: CLC Chairman and traditional owner Lindsay Bookie talks with mining company representatives

Negotiations for an agreement to be signed under the Native Title Act have changed traditional owners views on a tungsten and molybdenum mine site near Bonya in eastern Central Australia.

The agreement, which will be signed by the Central Land Council, traditional owners and Thor Mining Ltd will give traditional owners a stake in the development for the first time.

It will give Thor Mining the grant of a mining lease over the old mine and the green light to reopen the pit and begin work on infrastructure to service the mine.

It is hoped the agreement will provide up to eight jobs for traditional owners and the chance at contracts servicing the mine site.

For the first time, traditional owners have also been consulted over the siting of major infrastructure like the camp where 65 mine work-

ers will live and they are extremely pleased that sacred sites have been fenced off and protected.

CLC Director David Ross says it's long overdue for some benefits for the Eastern Arrente traditional owners.

"These people didn't get land rights because the land out there is mainly pastoral land and it couldn't be claimed under the Land Rights Act.

"They were never ever asked about development on their country and they had to stand by while their sites were trampled and they were treated with disrespect," he said.

"These negotiations signal a significant and positive change for them and clearly demonstrate that where Aboriginal people are able to participate, everybody wins."

"The CLC have worked hard and applied the principles we operate on under the Land Rights Act to the Native Title Act and in this way we will be able to deliver real and

tangible benefits to the Aboriginal people here," Mr Ross said.

There was no Aboriginal involvement in the mine before negotiations for this agreement and it was regarded negatively by Aboriginal landowners.

Sacred sites were destroyed and Aboriginal people were offended by the operations of the company running the mine before it closed.

Now they have been consulted, traditional owners are enthusiastic about the development and excited about job prospects.

One family involved already have experience with working in the Century Zinc mine near Mt Isa.

Aboriginal land lies mostly in the west and north of Central Australia which means traditional owners in the east have usually missed out on the economic benefits of mining and exploration on their country.

The expanded open pit will be about 500m across.

Top End Permit consultations

Strong messages of support for the permit system on Aboriginal land has come out of community meetings in Palumpa, Wadeye, Borroloola and Bulman held recently.

Commonwealth officials from Canberra, Mark Walker and Michael Russell, listened and bore the brunt of the criticism in Borroloola from traditional owners concerned about proposed changes to the permit system.

Northern Land Council staff were on hand to document strongly-worded messages of support for the permit system as it now exists, to be part of a submission that will be tabled with the Commonwealth government.

Borroloola traditional owner Phillip Timothy said if the proposed changes to the permit system go ahead, it would mean unprecedented numbers of tourists and unsavoury characters entering their homelands and townships.

"It would ruin us, and it would ruin our culture," Mr Timothy said.

"It would bring in people like drug dealers, it would bring in more places to drink, it would increase violence, and drug abuse."

He said, culturally 'it would kill us as a people, and would take our spirit away'.

Another Borroloola traditional owner Jack Hogan said the 30-year-old permit system is a fundamental right under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (ALRA), and something he and his people would never give up willingly.

"My message to Minister Brough would be for him to think about this one, before making a final decision, because at the moment we don't know what he is up to."

"If we lose that right we would have all sorts of people walking around on our country," Mr Hogan said.

"If they take this right away, we will not have a say on what goes on in our country, just like the old days when we had no rights. We have to speak up for our rights."

Another issue raised at the meeting was the myth about members of the public and media being restricted in their access to Aboriginal land and court proceedings.

The Northern Land Council has stated that last year alone, 22,260 permits were issued to visitors to Aboriginal land – a figure not including the hundreds of visits by Government workers in Aboriginal communities.

The Borroloola meeting resulted in traditional owners issuing a statement, signed by Yanyuwa,

Garawa, Mara, Gurdanji people, stating that proposed changes could 'be detrimental to their lives and for future generations' and 'an invasion of privacy'.

The petition also asks: "Why should Aboriginal people be singled out and put under a microscope?".

Meanwhile, last month permits review consultations continued in the NLC region at Katherine, Beswick, Barunga, Robinson River, Numbulwar, Ngukurr, and Bulman.

In Bulman, TOs gave an emphatic 'No change' message for the permits system to the Minister's representative, John Litchfield.

Local council chairman Lazarus Murray said the existing system has been operating effectively nearly 30 years, since the NT Aboriginal Land Act was introduced in 1978.

"The message to the Minister (Mal Brough) from this meeting is to leave the existing system as it is, so our sacred sites are protected, and that we know who is on Aboriginal land at all times," Mr Murray said.

"We have concerns that if permits are dropped that there won't be enough police resources to monitor all the extra people coming onto country."

The Central Land Council held consultations late last year where similar discussions took place and the verdict was unanimous in support of the current permit system.

Indigenous Affairs

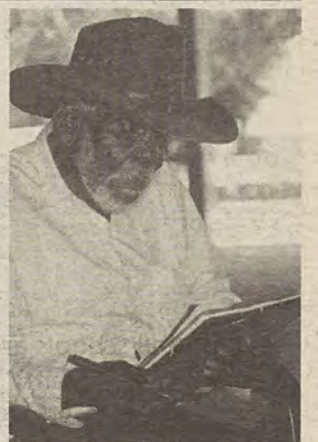
Minister Mal Brough is due to announce the results of his review of the permit system sometime in the next several months. Submissions to the review closed on 28 February this year.



Top down: Borroloola traditional owners voice their concerns Lazarus Murray and Kenlye Maymura at Bulman meeting

Women at the Borroloola meeting

Right: Gordon Landsen signs a petition against changes to the permit system in Borroloola



FOOTY SAVES THE WORLD

It certainly gets boys attending school. The Alice Springs Football Academy was launched in March. If it follows the outstanding success rate of the Academies in Western Australia in getting boys into school and out the other side into jobs then hundreds of young men in Central Australia will finally get a chance to escape poverty.



Above: Boys in the program play a game at the launch of the Alice Springs Football Academy in Alice Springs at Yirara College in March this year.

If there's one thing a Central Australian is passionate about, it's footy – AFL that is.

A new program has built on this passion to persuade 150 Aboriginal boys that school is the place to be.

For many of these boys, school attendance hasn't been a priority in their lives.

The Clontarf Foundation from Western Australia have set up their hugely successful program in three schools in Alice Springs – Anzac High School, Alice Springs High School (ASHS) and Yirara College.

Since February the boys have taken on a daily routine of footy training at 7am, breakfast, and then school.

Already attendance levels at all schools are unprecedented with ASHS reporting 96 per cent.

Clontarf have recruited some well-known names to staff the project including Ian McAdam, of the famous Alice Springs footy family; Justin Emerson who has been in Alice Springs for many years as a teacher; Shaun Cusack who is well travelled with footy and coached locally last year; and Rupert Betheras from Melbourne who played in Perth before heading back to Collingwood for six years.

Clontarf Development Manager Andrea Godard says the initial success has been outstanding.

"I'm thrilled with it so far. It's been a great start," she said.

"The schools report that there have been significant positive changes to the boys' behaviour, although in some ways there are more problems be-

cause now they are all at school more."

She said the program builds self-esteem in the students and helps the transition from school to employment.

The program was started in 1999 by Clontarf teacher Gerard Neesham with 25 boys.

After his four years as coach of the Fremantle Dockers, Gerard was approached by an old friend who asked him to do some relief teaching at Clontarf Aboriginal College.

While there he was asked to do some football coaching along with his normal teaching load.

He recognized that during the football sessions the collective energies of the group were much more focused and positive than during other

times of the day.

Gerard found that through the involvement in football individuals developed positive behaviours and much negative behaviour started to become less prevalent

The Clontarf Foundation now has 800 boys on the program all over WA and this year in Alice Springs.

Delivered by the Clontarf Foundation in partnership with the Department of Employment, Education and Training and the Australian Government's Department of Education, Science and Training, the program is the first of its kind in the Northern Territory.

In 2008 the program will be expanded to include the Centralian Senior Secondary College in Alice Springs.

MRM LEGAL CHALLENGE

The Northern Land Council has commenced legal action in the Federal and Supreme Courts against the expansion of the McArthur River Mine near Borroloola in the Northern Territory.

NLC Chief Executive, Norman Fry, said Xstrata's abject failure to resolve deeply held concerns regarding sacred sites and the environment had inevitably led to a legal challenge by traditional owners to the expansion.

"Xstrata wants to trample on Aboriginal rights and culture by permanently diverting a major river and interfering with major rainbow serpent sites – without negotiating an agreement with traditional owners, and without explaining to the public why it is safe to locate tailings on a flood plain," Mr Fry said.

McArthur River mine was approved in 1993 and was the first major mining development after the High Court's 1992 Mabo decision, but has never paid compensation or negotiated an agreement with traditional owners.

MRM plan to divert the existing course of the river over a five kilometre stretch in a move from underground to open cut mining.

Traditional owners are concerned that heavy rains could lead to flooding during the wet season and loss of significant sacred sites.

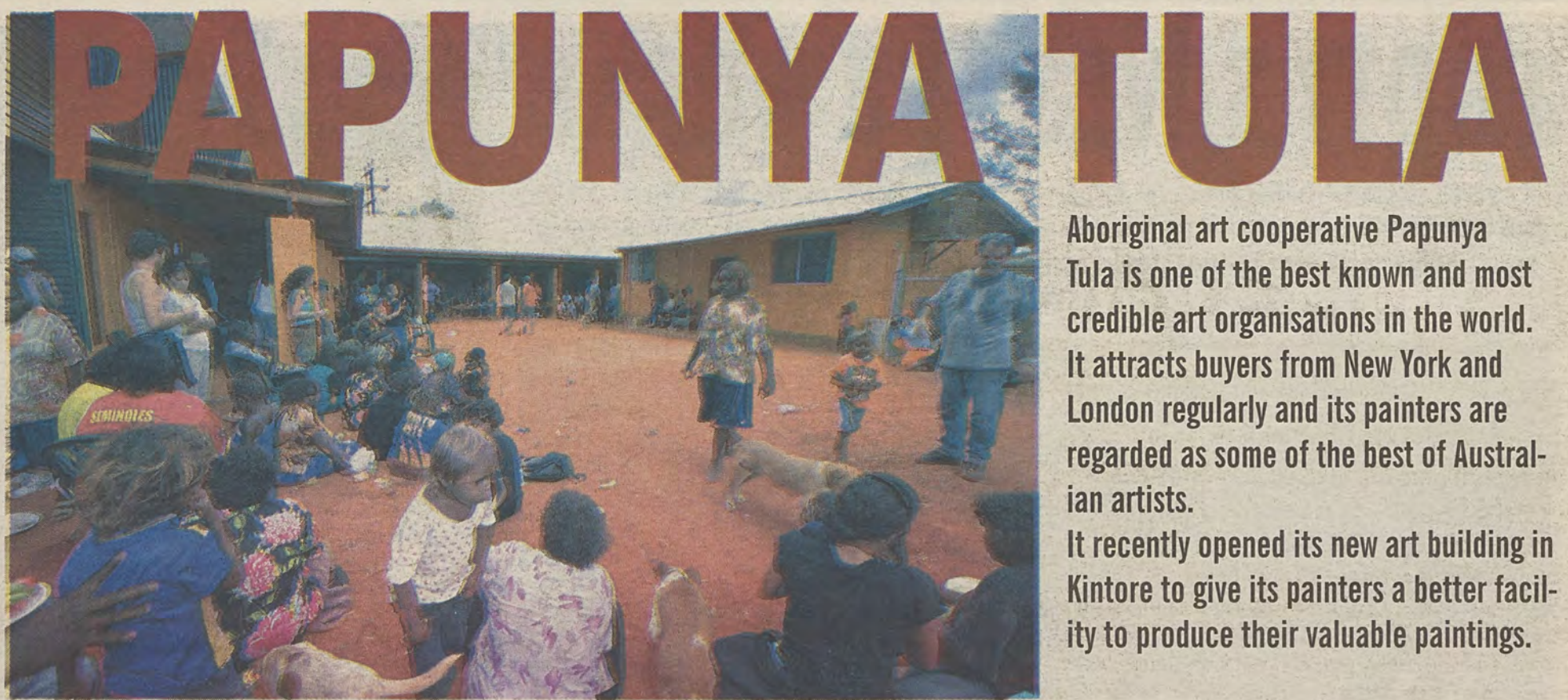
The Supreme Court proceedings, which challenge the Northern Territory Mines Minister's decision to approve the open-cut mine, were heard in March.

15 Traditional Owners travelled from Borroloola to attend the hearing.

Federal Court proceedings, which challenge the Federal Environment Minister's approval of the mine under Federal environmental legislation, are expected to be heard in May.

Below: Borroloola traditional owners protest at the mine expansion in Darwin last year.





Aboriginal art cooperative Papunya Tula is one of the best known and most credible art organisations in the world. It attracts buyers from New York and London regularly and its painters are regarded as some of the best of Australian artists. It recently opened its new art building in Kintore to give its painters a better facility to produce their valuable paintings.

Kintore gets a new art centre

With much colour and excitement the new Papunya Tula artists' studio at Kintore opened in March this year.

More than 100 visitors from around Australia and overseas braved muddy flooding roads and joined with hundreds of locals from Kintore and Kiwirrkura to mark this major event in the history of Papunya Tula Artists.

Long-time manager of Papunya Tula Artists Daphne Williams officially opened the Kintore studio, emphasising the ongoing progress of the company and its vital and enduring ties with the Kintore community.

Chairman, Bobby West Tjupurrula, welcomed all the visitors to the art studio and observed that the new studio was the culmination of a dream for the artists.

Current manager Paul Sweeney reflected on the significant developments that had occurred since the times when the canvases used to be stretched up under a tree, and acknowledged the outstanding achievements of the artists.

A series of special events included archival films and a visit to the nearby 'kapi walu' site of Ngutjul, and concluded with the women of Kintore, Kiwirrkura and Mt Liebig and the Kintore men performing an emotionally charged selection of dances.

The enormous community pride in this new facility was clear to everybody watching.

Papunya Tula artists were the founders of the Central and Western Desert Art Movement

Papunya Tula Artists is entirely owned and directed by traditional Aboriginal people from the Western Desert. The aim of the company is to promote individual artists, to provide economic development for the communities to which they belong, and assist in the maintenance of a rich cultural heritage.



Above: Men paint up ready to thrill the crowd

Right: I-r Hilary Tjapaljarri, Peter Michael and anthropologist Fred Myers

Below left: Kintore and Kiwirrkura women perform



Below: I-r Daphne Williams, Georgie Stewart, Bobby West Tjupurrula, Chair, Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation Marlene Spencer Nampitjinpa, Papunya Tula Manager Paul Sweeney



TOWN CAMP MAKEOVER

- \$70 MILLION TO BE SPENT IN ALICE SPRINGS

Town camps in Alice Springs will become suburbs under a plan by the Northern Territory Government and the Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough.

Up to \$70 million will be provided for temporary accommodation utilising demountables or 'dongas' transported from Woomera in South Australia.

The funding will also be used for a major upgrade of infrastructure including water, sewerage, electricity and telecommunications.

The news was cautiously welcomed by Tangentyere Council boss William Tilmouth who has fought for years to improve the living situation of town campers.

"We welcome the money and the improvement of services. However, each housing association on each town camp will have to decide whether it wants to relinquish its lease to take the upgrade in services and conform to the funding arrangements," Mr Tilmouth said.

"I understand that the Northern Territory Government is working at the minute to draw up an appropriate model about how it would be administered, whether it would be under NT Government management or what arrangements would be in place."

Mr Tilmouth said both Governments needed to realise that consultations were going to take time, and the proposed three month time-frame was 'unrealistic'.

For the first time, the new town suburbs will receive rubbish collection services in line with Alice Springs residents.

This follows a recommendation of the Town Camps Task Force that the camps' essential services are brought up to the same standard as the rest of the town.

The controversial plan to use 'dongas' from Woomera has also got the green light from Territory Planning Minister Delia Lawrie to locate the demountables at Len Kittle Drive at the southern end of Alice Springs and Dalgety Road on the northern side.

Tilmouth says that there is an urgent need for visitor accommodation to town but it is less than ideal.

"As far as the dongas go, I would prefer bricks and mortar like non-Indigenous people," he said.

Olga Havnen, the former chair of the Town Camp Task Force, says that she would have also preferred to see a different type of development.

"While there is acknowledgement that there is an urgent need for emergency accommodation services, I don't think the dongas are a sustainable development - they have a relatively short life span and need a lot of maintenance," Ms Havnen said.



Above: Tangentyere CEO Willy Tilmouth

"For all the money that will be spent on headworks for them, a purpose-built facility would have not cost a lot more and would have better served the purpose."

She said the northern accommodation would be specifically for women and children, leaving a problem of visitor accommodation for young men.

Havnen said there also seemed no long term plan from either the Federal Government or the Northern Territory Government, citing an existing problem of a lack of public housing in Alice Springs.

"There is a four year wait for a three bedroom house and Territory Housing are selling them off rather than building more," she said.

The Federal Government says the funding will be conditional on land tenure arrangements.

"The current holders of the individual town camp leases, in consultation with the Tangentyere Council and the NT Government, will have to agree on relinquishing those leases back to the NT Government to ensure appropriate land tenure arrangements are in place before Commonwealth money is invested in these locations," Mr Brough said.

"I want these people to have the opportunity to buy their houses if they choose, like most Australians can."

Below: Larapinta Camp and 18 other town camps will become suburbs under the scheme



Indigenous TV gets the go-ahead



NITV CEO Pat Turner

A new dedicated Indigenous Television station has been established, and will be committed to the production and presentation of Indigenous people's stories and issues.

Funded by the federal government, National Indigenous TV (NITV), will be launched mid-2007. Its charter is to provide content for, about, and by Indigenous Australian's.

NITV's newly appointed Chief Executive Officer, Pat Turner, says Indigenous Australians have advocated for a distinct Indigenous television service for over 25-years.

"Indigenous Australia does not have a high profile on Australian television. There is little Indigenous produced content on television, particularly on commercial and pay TV," Mrs Turner said.

"For Indigenous Australians, and particularly our children, we simply do not see Indigenous faces on screen. And the stories we do see are framed by news values - conflict and negativity."

Commencing mid-2007, NITV intends to acquire and commission a range of programming by, for and about Indigenous people.

Initially broadcast from Australia's only Aboriginal owned commercial television station - Imparja TV in Alice Springs - NITV will be beamed out to Australia via Imparja's second satellite channel.

Imparja Chief Executive, Alastair Feehan says Imparja TV is delighted to be a part of something new and exciting.

"It's a sensational opportunity, and a great starting point," Mr Feehan said. "We've got the capacity and the capability to meet requirements."

"We will commence with NITV by July this year, with full service by March 2008, at which stage the service will have five dedicated employees," Feehan said.

NITV is also planning to explore other broadcasting options, including future transmission via PAY TV services.

In Canada and New Zealand especially, new Indigenous channels have grown in size and scope of programming since their introduction.

Flesh eating bacteria cause for concern

The discovery of a flesh-eating bacteria in the McArthur River system near the township of Borroloola in the Northern Territory (NT) has raised concern amongst locals and visitors alike.

An article published in an international medical journal in 2006 identifies a possible link with the Vibrio bacteria and high levels of zinc in the McArthur River.

In the period between 2000 and 2005 three people have lost their lives to the bacteria, while a fourth has had a foot amputated as a result

that heavy metal polluting into the river system from the nearby McArthur River mine may be providing the stimulus for the bacteria's growth, a claim denied by the mine's manager, Brian Hearne.

"No one knows what is causing the unusual rate of infections in this region, but we know categorically there is no evidence of heavy metal pollution by the mine," Mr Hearne said.

The NLC says Aboriginal people and other Territorians are entitled to use the

"The possible link drawn by the journal between high levels of zinc from the McArthur River mine and flesh-eating bacteria underlines serious flaws in the environmental approval process for the mine expansion"

of contact with the disease.

The Northern Land Council (NLC) has reacted angrily to the discovery, branding the NT government's failure to warn residents in the Borroloola region, as a disgrace.

NLC Chief Executive, Norman Fry, said the NT government has a duty of care to inform and warn of potential health hazards.

"The NT government's failure to notify and warn the public is a dereliction of duty, and an absolute disgrace!" Mr Fry said.

"The NT government's pitiful response of erecting a few signs and only now commissioning further research is inadequate."

There are concerns

river system without fear, and free of health risks.

Mr Fry said the findings vindicate the decision by traditional owners to mount a legal challenge to the expansion of the mine.

"The possible link drawn by the journal between high levels of zinc from the McArthur River mine and flesh-eating bacteria underlines serious flaws in the environmental approval process for the mine expansion, and justifies recent litigation by traditional owners in the Supreme Court," Mr Fry said.

The NT's Chief Health Officer has said that further research will be conducted in an effort to determine the cause of the bacteria.

OPAL SUCCESS SAVES KIDS



Kids at Elliot as the promotional Opal fuelled vehicle passes through the town

The Federal Government has recently announced that it will broaden the region in which communities can receive a subsidy to sell non-sniffable Opal fuel.

Minister for Indigenous Affairs Mr Mal Brough, and Health Minister Mr Tony

Abbott advised in late February that the federal government's Central Australian anti-petrol sniffing strategy would be expanded.

The fuel will now be made available north of Alice Springs above Ti Tree, as well as into Indigenous communities in the East Kimberley region of Western Australia

The government has also undertaken a public relations campaign to address an increasingly widespread

public perception that Opal can damage vehicle engines, despite ample scientific evidence to the contrary.

The only vehicles that are at any risk are vehicles manufactured before 1986, and high-performance cars specifically designed to run on premium fuels.

The fuel is not a 'silver bullet' which will cure all the problems of sniffing overnight. However, Opal has already reduced sniffing dramatically.

Alice Springs residents have recently been letterboxed by Minister Abbott with advice that by the end of February 2007, all non-premium unleaded petrol sold in Alice Springs will be Opal.

The Minister's letter concludes with the advice that 'Opal is safe, reliable and effective'. Full page advertisements to this

effect have also been taken out in regional newspapers.

Opal fuel was developed by the BP company and introduced in February 2005.

It contains only very low levels of the aromatics found in regular unleaded

petrol which produce a sniffer's high.

Consequently, the fuel is 'unsniffable' and cannot be rendered sniffable by the addition of other chemicals.

In February 2006 Access Economics conducted an exhaustive investigation into the economic benefits that would accrue from a wider distribution of Opal fuel.

The report demonstrates that a comprehensive roll-out of the fuel has the capacity to save in the order of \$35 million dollars annually.

It's over

The Central Australian Youth Link Up Service (CAYLUS) says that the introduction of Opal fuel has significantly reduced the incidence of petrol sniffing in communities.

CAYLUS' Blair McFarland, says petrol sniffing has been virtually eliminated in Central Australia.

"Even up to a couple of years ago it was like there were 500 petrol sniffers in the Northern Territory and another 700 down in the Pitlands, and it just seemed like an entrenched problem," he told the ABC

"But now, there's a 95 per cent reduction in the Northern Territory, and in most remote communities, it's a 100 per cent reduction.

TOO MANY CAMELS TO COUNT

Baby boomers? They might be drought stricken and thirsty but camels are still managing to double their numbers every five years.

Prolonged drought has brought a rapidly swelling population of feral camels in the cross border region of Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory into direct conflict with remote communities and pastoralists alike in Central Australia.

With the camel population estimated at up to 1 million, thirsty camels are everywhere -wandering into communities looking for water, breaking taps, destroying soakages, busting fences, stripping trees and perishing in large numbers.

With a large migration of camels from Western Australia the Docker River community near the Western Australian border has been particularly hard hit by camels overrunning the community, damaging infrastructure and posing a threat to community health.

However, many senior traditional owners with a strong historical association with camels have been reluctant to see animals shot to reduce their numbers. The Central Land Council is continuing its consultations with the Docker River community about undertaking a significant cull in the region and is working hard to help traditional owners understand the impact that camels are having on their country and the management options available.

At Haasts Bluff however, traditional



Top: More than 100 horses were mustered at Santa Teresa recently and trucked off

Above: Camels dying from thirst near Docker River recently

owners agreed in March this year to a cull of 500 camels which had been breaking through fences on the grazing licence west of the community.

This was done with the cooperation of the CLC, Department of Primary Industries and NT Parks and Wildlife and follows up on a cull of 350 camels and 100 horses in the area last year.



Yellow-spotted Goanna under threat



The Northern Territory's most common goanna species is under threat. It's enemy – the Cane Toad!

With the advancement of toads now being experienced in the greater Darwin area, naturalists from the northern Australian environmental organisation: Frogwatch say the numbers of goannas being found dead is cause for concern.

"If we do not get rid of toads from around Darwin we will lose the goannas and frill-necks in our parks, gardens, school grounds and backyards," Graeme Sawyer of Frogwatch warns.

The toads have already advanced as far as Casuarina and Lee Point Coastal Reserves in Darwin, as well as the Leanyer coastal swamp.

"There are now small numbers of cane toads in the coastal reserves, and they are already killing goannas."

To combat the toads Frogwatch is organising a series of weekly 'Toadbusts' in metro and rural areas of Darwin.

Anyone interested in learning more is encouraged to visit the organisations website www.frogwatch.org

Mudcrab farm receives funding to develop further

The Federal Government has given approval for funding of up to \$433,180 for the development of stage two of the Kulaluk Mudcrab Farm at Nightcliff in Darwin.

The funding will assist Gwalwa Daraniki Enterprises to expand the pond area, complete capital works and purchase materials.

The project will develop a 2.5 hectare mudcrab farm at Kulaluk, utilising existing prawn farm infrastructure owned by the Gwalwa Daraniki people.

Stage 1 has been completed with stage 2 set to expand the farm into a commercial operation.

Pine Hill ILUA delivers for the mob at Mulga Bore

It is unlikely the small excision of Mulga Bore had seen so much action for some time when an ILUA was signed there recently.

An Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) on Pine Hill Pastoral Lease south east of Ti Tree was signed at Mulga Bore by Anmatyerr native title holders, the Northern Territory Government and the Central Land Council.

The ILUA will give the traditional owners compensation in the form of a living area on the Pine Hill Pastoral Lease, an art centre at Mulga Bore and a horticultural block to develop.

In return, native title will be extinguished on two other blocks the Government is developing for horticulture and validate two blocks which were created many years ago without the native title process.

The blocks will become Crown leases and the owners will then be able to convert them to freehold.

CLC Director David Ross said that the resolution of the claim was extremely positive.

"It's been consensual and it has relied on the goodwill of all of the stakeholders.

This ILUA delivers tangible benefits to the native title holders without lengthy court cases, he said.

Senior Anmatyerr people are hoping that the native title holders' block will provide employment opportunities for young people in the area and take advantage of the hor-

tical potential of the region. Centrefarm will manage its development.

The new Community Living Area on the pastoral lease is 25 square kilometres and the two new blocks are around 17 square kilometres each.

A Consent Determination covering 1173 square kilometres is also being made over the portion of the pastoral lease which lies on the eastern side of the Stuart Highway.

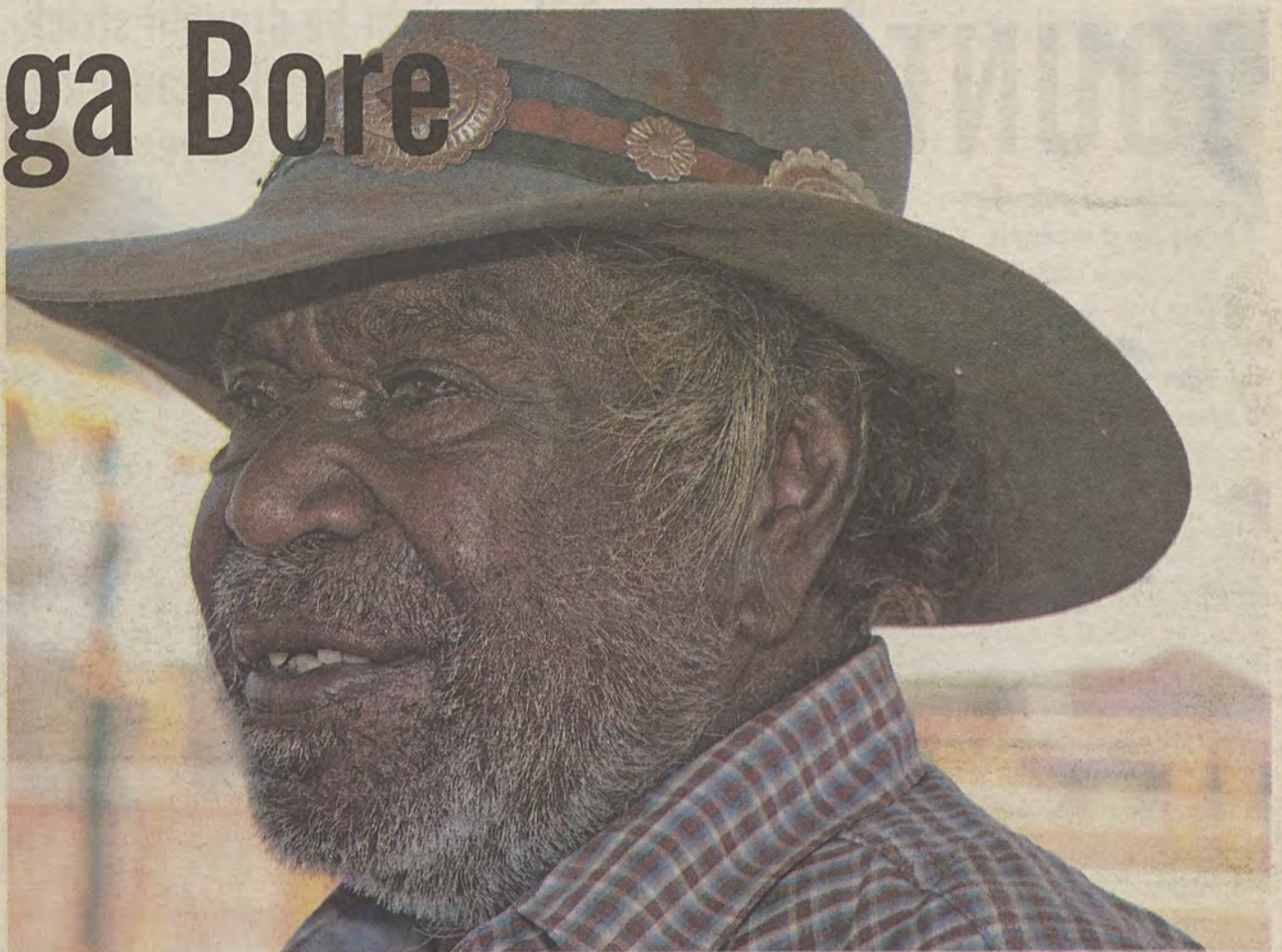
Native Title will be recognised over the remainder of the area in accordance with the rights and interests in the Consent Determination when that is agreed and finalised. This means that future developments in the larger area will involve the native title holders.

A new organisation, the Ilkewartn Ywel Aboriginal Corporation, has been incorporated in accordance with the requirements of the Native Title Act.

Its name reflects the two estate groups - Ilkewartn and Ywel - involved.

The claim was lodged in 1999 in response to a non-claimant application by Pine Hill Pastoral Company which wanted to develop the area to grow grapes.

The Government bought the lease in 2000 to secure horticultural development over the Ti Tree Basin. There are currently two horticultural blocks on the pastoral lease and the new blocks will bring it to five.



Above: Lindsay Bird; below: Checking out the new blocks on the map



Below right: NT Minister Chris Natt, Gracie Ampetyane, Bunny Ampetyane, Dorothy Ampetyane and CLC staffer Steven Quinn

Below top: Archie Glen Angale signs the deal; Below bottom: Mulga School kids enjoyed lunch at the ceremony



LAJAMANU



Above: l-r CLC Land Management officer Jamie Moore, Anthony Rex and Toby Martin



Above: Dancing at the Duck Ponds, an outstation about 90 kilometres south east of Lajamanu and a key management area in the new Indigenous Protected Area to be declared in April this year. Below: Wulain Ranger Anthony Rex



Above and below: footy, footy footy. Playing in the evening always attracts a good crowd of spectators



Right: Margaret Martin



'Smash and grab' mentality in Aboriginal art

A Senate Committee hearing on the future of Aboriginal art has heard evidence that the business of Aboriginal art can get very dirty indeed.

Alice Springs-based Papunya Tula's Paul Sweeney described some operators as having a "smash and grab mentality" and in NT Arts Minister Marion Scrymgour's words many of the people involved were "fakers, forgers and fraudsters" who ripped Aboriginal people off and threatened the entire industry.

"Since the industry 'explosion' in recent years the recognised artists, that is those with a high industry profile and whose work sells easily, have become targets for private operators intent on making quick cash and riding on the back of industry success," Mr Sweeney said.

"There is a 'smash and grab' mentality among some private operators, who are attempting to make as much from the older population as possible while they can."

Mr Sweeney said Aboriginal artists were often enticed to Alice Springs with the promise of a 'new' four-wheel drive.

"First contact with the artist is often made through a younger relative who is easily convinced to bring the artist to town in order to paint



for the car that is often waiting for them," he said.

"Again, it is worth mentioning, that the artist concerned is nearly always elderly, sixty, seventy or even eighty plus years old, as they are the known or recognised painters who have an established market."

Sweeney said it was obvious people needed to travel away from their communities at times, but the production of art in Alice Springs has become the primary purpose for people being away from remote communities such as Kintore and Kiwirrkura.

"Often family groups of ten or more have been absent for months at a time, as they live a hand to mouth existence in Alice Springs painting for cars," he added.

"Children are away from schools, those enrolled in CDEP programmes are absent and elderly people and those on medical prescriptions are away from clinical supervision."

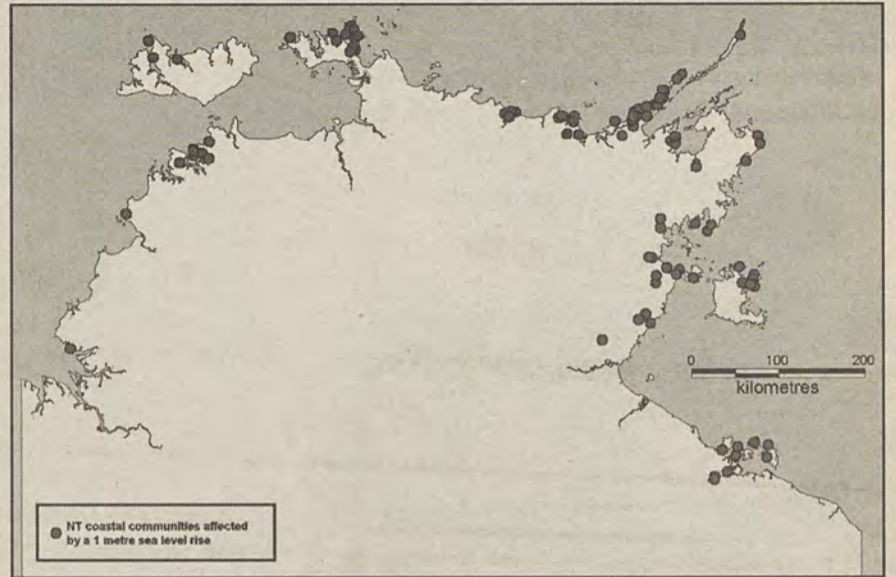
Papunya Tula says more support should be given to grass roots arts centres to enable them to operate and compete more effectively, adding that the Government should crack down on the tax evasion by some dealers and educate the market and consumers on industry issues.

Marion Scrymgour had concerns about souvenirs sold in Darwin shops which ripped off tourists and Aboriginal people by faking work.

"The material they call Aboriginal art is almost exclusively the work of fakers, forgers and fraudsters," she said.

"Their work hides behind false descriptions and dubious designs."

Climate change concerns for Aboriginal communities



This map was created using information from the Department of Geosciences Environmental Studies Laboratory, the University of Adelaide. Accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

Aboriginal communities need to be informed about the possible impacts of climate change, according to the Northern Land Council.

NLC deputy chief executive Olga Havnen said Top End Aboriginal communities who experience a marked 'wet' and 'dry' season can expect increased rainfall levels, rises in sea level and increased flooding if the increase in global warming continued.

"In contrast Central Australia which

is generally characterised by hot and dry summers with low rainfall could see changes to rainfall patterns and an increase in days over 40 degrees," Havnen said.

Aboriginal communities throughout the Northern Territory must be informed about possible impacts with an increased focus on long-term planning for Aboriginal communities and towns, she said.

Planning for

disaster mitigation and emergency response, affordable and available energy for remote communities, water resource management and a concentration on conserving ecosystems and biodiversity were all issues that needed to be urgently considered by Governments.

"The potential impacts for Indigenous communities are economic, social, cultural and environmental dislocation," she said.

No CDEP for Darwin

Early this year the new Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Joe Hockey announced significant reforms to Indigenous employment services across Australia.

The changes are intended to reduce welfare dependency among Indigenous Australians by replacing the Community Development and Employment Projects (CDEP) in urban and

major regional locations around Australia with job brokerage services.

Under the reforms, additional Structured Training Employment Projects (STEP) brokers will be appointed in these locations from 1 July 2007 to replace the existing CDEP Programs.

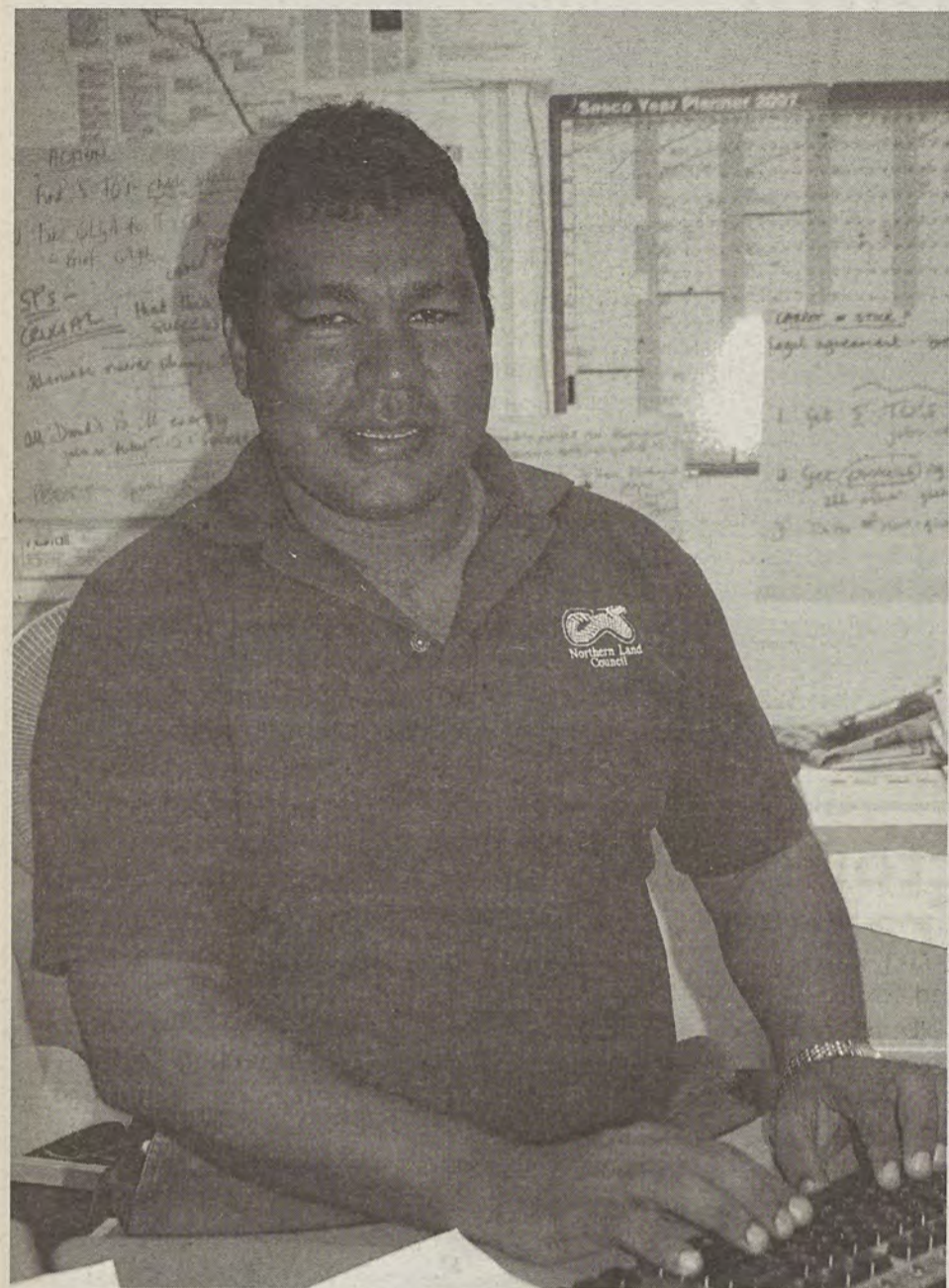
The CDEP Program in Darwin will cease to operate but other locations in the

Northern Territory will not be affected.

Allowable income limits for CDEP participants will be reduced in an effort to increase incentive for participants to move into jobs.

Service providers that place participants into non-CDEP employment will receive a 26 week outcome payment in addition to the existing 13 week outcome payment.

NLC assists staff to gain degree



David Ross Jr

A Northern Land Council staff member has completed his tertiary education in community management with the help of the organisation's education support scheme.

David Ross junior, who works in the NLC's Jobs and Careers Service unit as mining project manager, recently completed a Bachelor in Community Management degree at Macquarie University in Sydney, with the assistance of the NLC's study leave initiative, and a \$5000 Freightlink scholarship.

Mr Ross, who grew up in Katherine, and attended

Casuarina High School in Darwin, said he was delighted with his academic achievement, and would use his newly-acquired qualifications to further help Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory to gain much-needed employment in the mining industry.

"I feel very satisfied that I have finished something that I started," Mr Ross said.

"I have learnt a lot of things while at university, and I think having worked before going to uni has given me an edge in my studies and learning."

Mr Ross, a father of two, said his two younger brothers, Bobby, a carpenter, and Brian, a mechanic, as well as his family, were inspirational in supporting him through his studies.

"They are role models for me and gave me motivation to finish my studies," he said.

"I have been lucky to have a good network of people with Mum, Dad, family and friends to support me all the way."

The Freightlink scholarship is available to Aboriginal students in the Northern Territory in their final years of tertiary study.

Tiwi Forestry Graduates



Above: 'Smokey' Purantameri after graduation

Below: Graduate Noel Galarla

Nine Tiwi forestry staff who graduated from a three-year forestry apprenticeship will now have permanent jobs with forestry company, Great Southern.

Tiwi Land Council president Robert Tipungwuti said Tiwi people were gaining economic independence by working with companies such as Great Southern, who provided jobs, infrastructure such as roads, and training.

"They (Great Southern) are teaching Tiwi people to look after our land better and they are helping us realise our dreams for the future, a future where our kids will have jobs and education, as well as a strong culture and self-esteem," Mr Tipungwuti said.

Great Southern and the Tiwi Land Council are working to develop associated businesses such as nursery management, plantation management, infrastructure maintenance, harvesting, haulage, process-



ing, management and care for the environment, with the ultimate goal of the establishment of a chip mill on the islands.

Great Southern now has 25 full-time Tiwi staff, including 10 land and sea rangers, two land evaluation officers who work in the environment team, two Tiwi liaison officers, and 11 Tiwis in the forestry crew (including the nine apprentices).

It is recruiting another 12 Tiwi forestry apprentices, who are due to start work on the forestry project in the next few weeks.

Tiwi Islands Train-

ing and Employment Board chairman Andrew Tipungwuti said the forestry industry gives Tiwi people a way out of the welfare cycle.

"These men work 12-hour shifts from Monday to Friday, living in the forestry camp at Maxwell Creek, with other forestry workers," he said.

"They go home to their families at the weekend, bringing to their families pay packets that are a lot bigger and a lot more permanent than CDEP money."

Transport desperately needed for the bush in Central Australia

Alice Springs needs a transport service for Aboriginal people in the bush.

Currently Aboriginal people are stranded, often destitute and homeless, in town after coming in for business.

The Centre Bush Bus, a non-Aboriginal business, will bring people in from a remote community but not return for another fortnight.

Olga Havnen former Chair of the Alice

Springs Town Camp Taskforce says that a decent bus service is vital to address some of the problems associated with anti-social behaviour in town.

"It's no good opening the prison doors and letting people out if they are just stuck in town where they are likely to make the same mistakes which put them in jail in the first place," she said.

"The same goes for patients discharged from hospital or just

Aboriginal people from remote communities doing their business in town."

"If the Government committed itself to this project and Corrective Services and Department of Health contracted the service of the bush bus then it would be a sustainable business."

Tangentyere CEO William Tilmouth said that Tangentyere Council's Return to Country program worked well but was defunded by

the Australian Government because it wasn't on a user pays basis.

"It had ownership by the people who used it.

"Town Camps would ring us when there was a build up of visitors and the pressure was getting too much and we would be there the next day and take people home.

"It was no good asking them to pay because they were broke and it only cost

us a tank of petrol, and maybe a tyre.

"It was very responsive and meant that the problem was dealt with quickly. It also employed Aboriginal people to return people to their homes," Mr Tilmouth said.

Town Camps Steering Committee chairman Barry Chambers says discussions are taking place with the Centre Bush Bus to double services to some remote communities.

"This means people can come into town for services and not have to stay as long in Alice Springs, and many of the people have indicated they don't actually want to be in Alice a long time if they just have to come in for a one or two day business trip," he told ABC Radio recently.

"In some cases the current schedules meant they could have been there for up to two weeks."

Jessica Mauboy to open Arafura Games

Australian Idol finalist Jessica Mauboy will open the Arafura Games on May 12.

She will sing Janet Jackson's Together Again with the support of 40 back-up dancers from Casuarina Senior College and Darwin School of Ballet.

The Games are expected to attract more than 2500 athletes from 30 countries, competing in 23 sports.

Tickets are available from the Darwin Entertainment Centre on (08) 8980 3333 or online at www.darwinentertainment.com.au

AFL clubs to adopt Indigenous communities

AFL clubs will adopt an Indigenous community each under a program that would also see AFL players visiting Indigenous youth to encourage them to stay at school.

The \$2.4 million program, sponsored by the AFL and the Federal Government, will result in clubs adopting an Indigenous community for three years.

The community of Wadeye will be the first to get a team.

Clubs will send players and coaches to communities on a regular basis to conduct coaching clinics and deliver lifestyle and nutrition information as part of a reward scheme for school attendance and results.

A regional football competition involving the Wadeye, Palumpa, Peppimenarti and Daly River communities will also be established.

Softball competitions will be set up for women and girls.

Under the AFL All-Stars Ambassador Program, 15 boys and girls from selected communities will be mentored by a current or former AFL player, who will help set life goals and develop behaviour plans.

Essendon Football Club last year began sponsorship of the Tiwi Islands Football Club in its first season in the Northern Territory Football League.

The Tiwi side played seven games, winning six of them.

Indigenous players make up 12 per cent of AFL playing lists, compared with 3 per cent of the general population.

Director Public Education and Training

Department of Justice

Administrative Officer 7 (\$71 062 - \$73 602)

Anti-Discrimination Commission - Darwin

Temporary vacancy for 6 months

Primary Objective

Manage and deliver the Training and Public Education functions of the Anti-Discrimination Commission including development of materials, research, liaison with public and private sector, and provision of high level policy advice.

Key Responsibilities

1. Plan, develop and deliver high-level education materials and training programs.
2. Negotiate and facilitate the implementation of public and private sector policies and practices relating to anti-discrimination and equal opportunity principles.
3. Provide high-level policy advice to the Commissioner on the Anti-Discrimination Act, with a particular emphasis on issues affecting Equal Opportunity target groups within the Northern Territory.
4. Conduct research into equal opportunity and anti-discrimination issues and disseminate this information to the Commission and the public.
5. Prepare speech notes as required.

Selection Criteria

Essential

1. Demonstrated ability to produce high-level education materials and training programs suitable for a wide range of people including EO target groups.
2. Substantial experience in delivering education and training sessions to diverse groups.
3. Written and oral skills of a very high order and the demonstrated ability to liaise effectively with persons at all levels.
4. Good knowledge and understanding of anti-discrimination and equal opportunity principles and practices or the demonstrated ability to quickly acquire this knowledge.
5. High-level computer skills including experience with creating Power Point presentations.

Desirable

1. Experience in the research, development and analysis of policy options.
2. Cross-cultural training and experience working with persons from EO target groups.

The successful applicant will occasionally be required to travel throughout the NT.

For further information about the position please contact Terry Lisson on (08) 8999 1444.

For a full job description, including the selection criteria and details on how to apply, please call 1300 659 247 or visit www.nt.gov.au/jobs

Applications should address the Selection Criteria. Please refer to the contact details below for a copy of the Selection Criteria and Job Description.

Quote vacancy number: 270055

Closing date: 13 April 2007



ALPA chairman Rev Dr Djiniyini Gondarra and vice chairman Alfred Wunbaya

Remote community wins national award

A campaign to reduce the amount of plastic bags discarded in remote Top End communities has been recognised with a national award recently.

The Arnhem Land Progress Association (ALPA) group of community stores – situated at Ramingining, Milingimbi, Gapuwiyak and Galiwinku – received the national Keep Australia Beautiful Plastic Bags Reduction (Community Section) award for their 'Don't Choke the Turtles' entry.

The ALPA board identified plastic bags as a major source of litter in the early 1980s and provided brown paper bags or recycled boxes as an alternative.

The campaign highlighted the danger of plastic bags to marine animals, focusing on the strong cultural connection and totemic relationships local people had with the sea and sea turtles.

ALPA chairman Rev Dr Djiniyini Gondarra said the recent recognition of ALPA's environmental policies would encourage other communities to follow their example.

PAPUNYA TULA CONT FROM P6



Above: Crowd pleasers from Kintore

Below: Kintore community members at the opening of the art studio. This photo contains the most dogs of any Land Rights News photo. Look carefully - there are 19.



Yirrkala students graduate

Seven secondary students from Yirrkala in north-east Arnhem Land were a source of pride for the remote community when they graduated from high school.

The Yirrkala Community Education Centre has fought hard to develop an education program that recognises Yolgnu children's strong links to their traditional culture.

In a recent ceremony the seven students – Ganybu Mununggurr, Birrala Yunupingu, Gathapura Mununggurr, Yikatjpirr Wunungmurra, Nuwaniny Burrarrwanga, Angela Gurruwiwi, and Ngalkanbuy Mununggurr – were escorted by community members to a stage to receive their certificates amidst a display of traditional dancing and song.

Yambirrpa Schools Council chairman, and Northern Land Council member, Wali Wunungmurra, said it was a great day for the community, and a recognition of the 'both ways' learning model.

"We are celebrating our Year 12 successes here but we are also celebrating re-engaging youth in programs that link to life in our community," he said.

"It gives us a chance to remember and acknowledge the work and learning of the graduates here today."

The success of the education program is attributed to the fact that it is inclusive of local languages, culture and history, he said.

Mr Wunungmurra thanked the

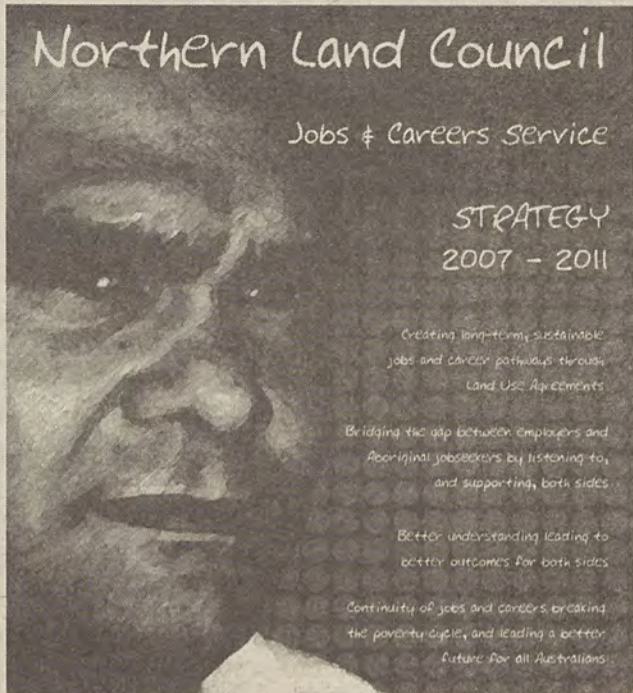


Student graduate Ganybu Mununggurr

Federal Department of Education Science and Technology (DEST) for their support for language workshops, which meant local Yolgnu experts were employed as instructors.

"This creates opportunities for our Yolgnu Elders to interact with our students and also provides some significant additional opportunities for some increase in local Yolgnu employment."

Executive members of the NLC attended the graduation ceremony to give their congratulations and express their support for the school community.



NLC Jobs and careers strategy booklet created

The Northern Land Council's (NLC) Jobs & Careers Service (JACS) has launched its new strategy booklet outlining pathways to increase the capacity of Aboriginal Territorians in its region.

The new strategy aims to break the 'stop/go' work cycle and fulfil the goals of Aboriginal people looking to improve their future into the long term.

With major develop-

ment projects either underway or proposed for Aboriginal land in the NT, the NLC's JACS

program is working to bridge the gap between business and Aboriginal people.

"It's about changing attitudes and perceptions on both sides," JACS unit Manager,

Barry King said.

"Our approach has had success in the past because we work

"...It's about changing attitudes and perceptions on both sides..."

for the employer and job-seeker. We listen to both sides and work towards meeting their needs.

"By working with businesses that are genuine about employing Aboriginal people

in real jobs, we will increase the number of opportunities open to Aboriginal people, and generate a labour market of skilled workers," Barry said.

Anyone seeking further information about the booklet can do so by visiting the NLC's website at www.nlc.org.au or email; jobsandcareers@nlc.org.au

NLC Caring for Country booklet celebrates 10 years

The Northern Land Council's Caring for Country program is 10 years old, and to commemorate the event, the NLC has produced a booklet highlighting a decade of continued growth and success.

Featured in the booklet are the various Aboriginal Ranger groups who operate land management programs across the Top

End of the Northern Territory.

Initially developed to build the capacity of local Aboriginal land-owning groups to initiate effective long-term management of their land and sea resources, the Caring for Country program has continued to expand from year to year.

Today, the NLC's Caring for Country

unit has evolved into a key information hub for the many ranger groups initiating and implementing land and sea management programs in the Top End.

Programs such as feral animal control; fire abatement; wildlife enterprise development programs; and, threatened species management are every

day activities for the ranger groups operating on country.

The Caring for Country program was developed in close consultation with traditional owners.

Through the program, the NLC assists Aboriginal people to preserve healthy landscapes for future generations.

For further infor-



mation on how to obtain a copy of the booklet, contact

Maria Garcia at the Northern Land Council on 89205100.

Indigenous Pastoral Program providing job opportunities



Aboriginal involvement in the Northern Territory pastoral industry has had a long and historic connection, and it looks set to continue thanks to a collaborative program that's providing young Aboriginal men with the necessary skills.

Eleven men from the communities of Minyerri and Jilkminggan in the Roper River region are undergoing basic riding and horse husbandry skills at the Charles Darwin University's Katherine Rural College Campus, and they are doing it to gain employment in the NT pastoral industry.

Job opportunities on cattle stations in the Katherine and Barkly districts await those who complete the six-week course.

With the NT pastoral industry in need of permanent, skilled workers, the education of the men is regarded as a win-win situation for all involved.

Initiated in 2006, the Indigenous Pastoral Program is an alliance of the NT's two major land councils (Northern and Central); NT Cattlemen's Association; and, the NT and federal government's.



Top Left; The Aussie stock saddle will be the work place for many IPP graduates
Above: Learning basic stock and station skills will provide graduates with the necessary knowledge required

ALL-STARS SUFFER FIRST DEFEAT

The Aboriginal All-Stars have suffered their first defeat.

In front of more than 13,000 people in Darwin on 9 February, the Essendon Football Club were simply too big and too strong, as they handed out a 50-point belting to the All-Stars.

With Captain, David Hille, exploiting the All-Stars lack of height and dominating the centre bounces, it was the Bombers who set the tempo early, exploding out of the boxes to kick the first three goals of the match before the All-Stars had time to settle.

While big men Courtney Johns and Scott Lucas caused headaches up forward for the smaller All-Stars backline, the Bombers on-ballers were relentless, winning the majority of 50-50 contests and running hard in numbers. The game was 12 minutes old before the All-Stars registered their first major, courtesy of an Aaron Davey special from tight against the boundary line.

A half time lead of 20-points to the Bombers was extended to 30 by three quarter time, the margin blowing out to 50 by the final siren.

All-Star coach, Michael McLean said losing the game was disappointing, but offered no excuses for his team's defeat.

"It is disappointing. Too many turn overs. Essendon were very good, they got numbers to the drop of the footy, and pretty well outplayed us," McLean said. "Had we used the ball a bit better, it might have been a different story."

In contrast, Essendon coach, Kevin Sheedy, said the early signs were good for his side, and he was happy with his team's progress on the eve of the 2007 season.

"It's a good start for us because we hadn't had a lot of wins for a while. We know it's a game that this team doesn't play together a lot, but we just needed to get out there and get back to playing good footy, and we started to play some tonight," Sheedy said.

Both coaches favour keeping the concept in its current two-year cycle.

"I think two-years is good. I went around to the players before and said thanks for playing and putting yourself out there, and Shaunie Burgoyne said; 'I'll play any day,'" McLean said.

All-Star's captain, Andrew McLeod, indicated he's on track for another big season after he was named the Polly Farmer medallist for his best on ground performance. While Richmond's Andrew Krakouer tried hard all night, as did former Brisbane Lions utility, Daryl White.

The Essendon faithful however, will be licking their lips in anticipation, with new recruits Alwyn 'Froggy' Davey and Leroy Jetta showing enough to suggest they'll provide plenty of excitement during their time with the Bombers.

Wins over Collingwood in 1994, Carlton in 2003 and the Western Bulldogs in 2005, had the All-Stars starting as red-hot favourites. But, they were no match for a hard and fit Bombers team who show real signs of being big improvers in season 2007.

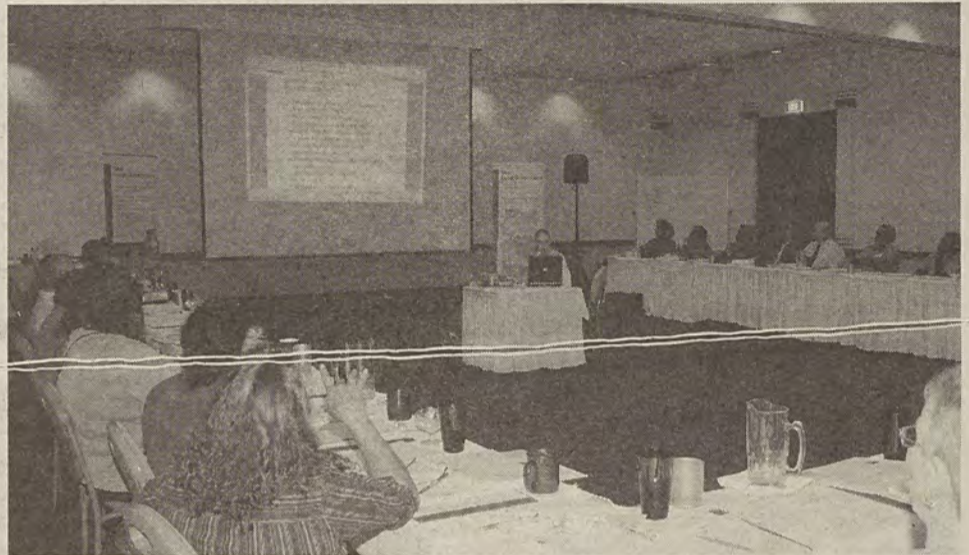
Scores:				
5:0	7:4	10:6	14:9	(93)
1:2	4:2	5:6	6:7	(43)

Best players	
Essendon:	D Hille, A McPhee, R Cole, A Davey, S Lucas
All-Stars:	A McLeod, A Krakouer, D White, D Headland, D Pearce



Dejected All Stars leave the ground

Local government reform timetable unrealistic



Above: Local Government committee meeting in Alice Springs to discuss the changes

Three of the Northern Territory's major lobby groups have called on the NT Government to re-think and extend the existing deadline in relation to proposed reforms to local government bodies in the NT.

The Northern Land Council, NT Cattle-men's Association and the NT Chamber of Commerce say the proposed reform model has not had adequate discussion, and are calling on the NT Government to initiate further consultations, particularly with people in the bush.

The Central Land Council says it is still considering the proposal but already has some concerns.

NLC Chief Executive, Mr Norman Fry, said that the reform model had not had an appropriate consultation process and as a result there was significant misunderstanding about the intent of the reforms in the bush.

"It is essential that Aboriginal people are fully included in

this reform process. To date, this has not occurred and it cannot occur by 1 July 2008," Mr Fry said.

Mr Fry said there was particular concern about the way in which shire boundaries have been drawn.

"The establishment of boundaries need to take into account cultural, linguistic and demographic factors to ensure optimum outcomes in service delivery" Mr Fry said.

CLC Director David Ross says his first concern is that traditional owners rights are protected.

"This proposal has to be considered very carefully because for the first time the entire land mass of the Northern Territory will be covered by shires," he said.

"Traditional owners would lose substantial autonomy at a community level"

Mr Ross said that he was also concerned about service delivery.

"Any move would require a watertight guarantee from the NT

Government that there would be sufficient resources to actually improve service delivery to communities.

"And as we know Governments break promises," he said.

The NT Cattlemen's Association called on the NT Government to show the community appropriate economic modelling that demonstrates regional growth under the proposed regime.

Meanwhile, the NT Chamber of Commerce says the whole process has been flawed from the beginning.

"There are a number of key stakeholders concerned with the process whose input is either ignored or disregarded," NTCC Chief Executive, Chris Young said.

If the NT Government's proposal is endorsed the NT's existing local government councils will be incorporated into nine shires and four municipal councils.

The NT Government plans to have the new structure in place by 1 July 2008.



Secondary Education debate rages

Member for Lingiari and Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Northern Australia and Indigenous Affairs Warren Snowdon has called on the Federal Government to do its utmost to back up Territory efforts to provide public secondary education in remote community schools.

Mr Snowdon said Federal Parliament had a significant responsibility to make sure every Australian child, no matter where they live, had the right to full and free access to education at all levels - primary and secondary levels as well as post-school education and training.

Mr Snowdon said that while the Northern Territory Government had improved education since coming to power, between 3000 and 5000 young people still missed out.

'If we don't provide this we are condemning them to a life of poverty and welfare dependency,' he told Parliament.

Also outspoken on the issue were Tracker Tilmouth and Senator Heffernan who blamed the Northern Territory Government.

But the NT Government says 63 remote Indigenous students have graduated since 2003. Territory Education Minister, Paul Henderson said there were none during the period the CLP was in power.

The NT Government says that truancy is one of the key obstacles for Aboriginal children to get an education and Chief Minister Clare Martin has called on the Commonwealth Government to link welfare payments to school attendance.

'I have talked to the Federal Government about other mechanisms and one of the ones that has particularly come from Aboriginal communities themselves is putting a link with family assistance payments to attendance at school,' Ms Martin said.

Above: The Anmatyerr Mt Allen School song takes shape: Top right: Senior community leader Jack Cook checks proofs of the final product with other members of the community and Batchelor College lecturer Gail Wood.

Top left: Teacher David McCormack helps a student; below: Caroline Stafford teaches the class.

"I have advocated it to Federal Government and I'm disappointed at their lack of response," she told ABC Radio.

Mt Allen School gets on with the job

Mt Allen school must be doing something right because it has an unusually large number of boys in its secondary class.

That 'something' is probably the high number of Aboriginal teachers in the school - male and female.

Teachers David McCormack, Caroline Stafford, Rosina Stafford, Rowena Larry and Lisa Cook are a great team at the school and are shown here creating a school song in their Anmatyerr language with their secondary boys.

The song was written during a workshop run jointly by the Education Department's Group School Tanami and Batchelor College to support the Language and Culture program

DARWIN HOST CITY FOR 50TH NAIDOC

Darwin has been selected to be the host city for this year's national NAIDOC Week celebrations – the 50th anniversary of events celebrating Aboriginal pride.

The theme for this year is '50 Years: Looking Forward, Looking Blak'.

A main highlight will be the National NAIDOC Awards and Ball to be held in Darwin on Black Friday, 13 July, a fitting coincidence to celebrate the achievements of Indigenous Australians.

Organisers say it is now time to nominate Aboriginal people or Torres Strait Islanders who have made a significant contribution in their chosen field – whether it is music, arts, culture, education, sport, employment or politics.

Nominations close on 18 April.

A great lineup of artists has been announced to entertain guests at the National NAIDOC Ball, including Australian Idol finalist Jessica Mauboy, Yothu Yindi, The Pigram Brothers and the Mills Sisters.



Tickets to the ball, to be held on the lawns of SkyCity Casino, Gilruth Avenue, Mindil Beach, Darwin, are available at the Darwin Entertainment Centre Box Office at 93 Mitchell Street, Darwin or by phoning (08) 8980 3333.

Tickets are \$70 which includes a three-course meal with drinks (beer, wine, soft drinks, tea and coffee).

To nominate someone for the awards or further information on NAIDOC 2007 visit

www.naidoc.org.au and download the relevant forms.

NAIDOC
NATIONAL AWARDS 2007
WHERE? Sky City Casino lawns
WHEN? Black Friday 13 July 2007
HOW MUCH? \$70
CONTACT? 89803333

Kantilla exhibition on display

"...I will paint until the day I die..."

Kitty Kantilla (*Kutuwulumi Parawarrumpatu*)

Kitty Kantilla was one of Australia's most celebrated artists, and the breadth and beauty of her work will be unveiled in a major exhibition opening in April at the National Gallery of Australia, Victoria (NGV).

Kantilla produced an extraordinary body of work from the 1970's to 2003.

Prominent amongst her works was the depiction of Tiwi ceremony. A cultural practice Kantilla absorbed from a very early age.

Her earliest works were "tutini" (grave poles) and figures carved from ironwood using only a tomahawk, chisel and mallet, bark paintings and "tunga" (bark baskets).

Kantilla's paintings featured variable dots, a practice that earned her the nickname of "Dot Dot".

But, it wasn't until Kantilla was introduced to printmaking that her style underwent a transformation. Gone was the practice of using dots, replaced with fragile lines and delicate herringbone markings.

"Kantilla pursued her art from deep within her culture. For the viewer, her works are highly charged with ceremony, something spiritual and untouchable," NGV Senior Curator of Indigenous Art, Judith Ryan said.

Born on Melville Island, 50 Kilometres from Darwin, a young Kantilla would watch her father paint his special designs on faces, bodies, and objects, it was this exposure to art at an early age that acted as the inspiration for Kantilla.

"This major retrospective is a tribute to a wonderful, respected artist," NGV Deputy Director, Frances Lindsay said.

"It will show the amazing diversity of her skill and is the ideal way to continue the sequence of special exhibitions the NGV has organised focusing on aspects of Tiwi art."

The exhibition is scheduled to open at the Ian Potter Centre NGV Australia on 27 April and will run until 19 August.

MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Telstra Award \$40,000 category prizes \$4,000 each

Closing date for preselection **Friday 30 March 2007**

All prizes, including the Telstra Award of \$40,000 are non-acquisitive

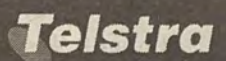
Contact:
 The Award Coordinator
 Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
 GPO Box 4646 Darwin NT 0801 Email: natsiaa@nt.gov.au
 Phone: (08) 8999 8203 Facsimile: (08) 8999 8148
 Website: www.magnt.nt.gov.au

24th Telstra



National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander

art award



100% FOOTY - ESSENDON TAKE ON THE ALL STARS



Above: Coach Michael McLean addresses the All-Stars after the match.



Above: Byron Pickett after the match.



Above: The All-Stars line-up before the match.



Above: -The All-Stars and Essendon players together after the match.



Above: Brothers Aaron Davey (All-Stars) and Alwyn Davey (Essendon) greet each other after the match.